



THE STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

NJHome | Services A to Z | Departments/Agencies | FAQs

Search



OAG Home

OAG Services from A - Z

Servicios en Español

OAG Contact

News Release

OAG Home

Gurbir S. Grewal
Attorney General



AG's Executive Leadership Team

AG's Message	Ask the AG
Contact OAG	About OAG
OAG News	OAG FAQs
OAG Library	Employment
OAG Grants	Proposed Rules
OAG History	Services A-Z

Statutes / Regulations / Rules

Agencies / Programs / Units

Other News Pages

Governor's Office
Otras Noticias en Español (OAG)
Civil Rights (Division of)
Consumer Affairs (Division of)
Criminal Justice (Division of)
Election Law Enforcement Comm.
Gaming Enforcement (Div. of)
Highway Traffic Safety (Division of)
Insurance Fraud Prosecutor (Office of)
Juvenile Justice Commission
State Police (Division of NJ)
Law (Division of)

For Immediate Release:

August 2, 2017

Office of The Attorney General

- Christopher S. Porrino, *Attorney General*

Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor

- Christopher Lu, *Acting Insurance Fraud Prosecutor*

For Further Information:

Media Inquiries-

Lisa Coryell
609-292-4791

Citizen Inquiries-

609-984-5828

Bergen County Neurologist Charged with Paying Illegal Kickbacks to a Passaic County Chiropractor in Exchange for Patient Referrals to His Pain Management Facility



Dr. Terry Ramnanan

TRENTON – Attorney General Christopher S. Porrino and the Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor announced that a Bergen County neurologist today was charged with third-degree conspiracy and commercial bribery for allegedly paying illegal kickbacks to a Totowa chiropractor in exchange for patient referrals to his pain management facility.

Dr. Terry Ramnanan, 64, who operates the Interventional Spine and Pain facility in Paramus, was also charged with third-degree running in an indictment handed up by a state Grand Jury in Trenton today.

Ramnanan, who lives in Upper Saddle River, is the latest doctor charged in connection with an ongoing investigation by the Attorney General's Commercial Bribery Task Force (CBTF), which was formed in January 2016 to target commercial bribery in the healthcare industry. The task force includes deputy attorneys general and detectives from the Division of Criminal Justice Financial & Computer Crimes Bureau and the Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor.

The investigation has uncovered a statewide criminal enterprise in which doctors allegedly received hundreds of thousands of dollars in illegal kickbacks in return for providing patient referrals worth millions of dollars to other doctors and medical service providers.

“Our Commercial Bribery Task Force will continue to unravel this tangled web of corruption until we identify and bring to justice everyone involved in this shameless scheme that puts profit over patients,” said Attorney General Porrino. “With each new defendant we charge, we’re reinforcing our message that New Jersey patients are not for sale.”

“Kickback schemes like this one undermine the entire medical profession and violate the doctor-patient relationship that serves as its sacred bedrock,” said Acting Insurance Fraud Prosecutor Christopher Iu. “Patients must be able to trust that their healthcare treatments are based on sound medicine, not the greed and corruption of their doctors. As this investigation shows, medical professionals who exploit that trust for personal gain will be held accountable.”

“These bribery schemes involving medical professionals harm individual patients, who may be misdiagnosed or receive unnecessary treatments, and they raise costs for all healthcare consumers,” said Director Elie Honig of the Division of Criminal Justice. “We urge anyone who suspects this type of corrupt activity in the healthcare industry to contact our task force confidentially at **866-TIPS-4CJ**.”

According to the indictment, between January 2012 and April 2016, Ramnanan conspired with Totowa chiropractor Dr. Ronald Hayek in a kickback scheme in which Ramnanan paid Hayek for referring patients for treatment at his medical facility.

Hayek was among dozens of doctors charged in two prior medical fraud investigations that led to the formation of the Commercial Bribery Task Force:

- An investigation by the Division of Criminal Justice Financial & Computer Crimes Bureau that led to guilty pleas last year from Dr. Manoj Patharkar and his associate Mohammed Shamshair on charges that they hid and laundered approximately \$3.6 million in income from the doctor’s pain management clinics to evade taxes, and
- “Operation Rayscam,” an investigation by the Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor that led to guilty pleas in May 2015 from Rehan Zuberi, his wife and three other defendants in connection with commercial bribes that Zuberi paid to doctors in return for the referral of patients to his medical imaging centers.

In July 2016, Hayek pleaded guilty to two accusations. The first accusation, filed by the Division of Criminal Justice Financial & Computer Crimes Bureau, charged him with second-degree conspiracy, second-degree money laundering, six counts of commercial bribery, (four in the second degree, two in the third degree), and one count of third degree failure to pay taxes. The second accusation, filed by the Office of Insurance Fraud Prosecutor, charged him with one count of third-degree conspiracy.

In pleading guilty to the accusation filed by the Division of Criminal Justice, Hayek admitted he accepted tens of thousands of dollars in kickbacks from Shamshair, Patharkar, Ramnanan, and others, in exchange for referring patients to them and their related medical facilities. He also admitted paying commercial bribes to attorneys in exchange for the referral of clients to his practice. In pleading guilty to the accusation filed by the Office of Insurance Fraud Prosecutor, Hayek admitted to receiving kickbacks in exchange for referring patients to diagnostic imaging facilities owned or controlled by Rehan Zuberi.

The charges are merely accusations and the defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty. Third-degree crimes carry a sentence of three to five years in state prison and a criminal fine of up to \$15,000.

Deputy Attorney General Colin Keiffer, of the Office of Insurance Fraud Prosecutor, presented the case to the grand jury.

Commercial Bribery Task force members Lt. Lisa Shea, Lt. Anthony Butler, Detective John Campanella, Detective Wendy Berg, Detective Grace Rocca, Detective Kimberly Allen, Detective John Neggia, Analyst Bethany Schussler, and Analyst Rita Gillis, are conducting and coordinating the investigation for the Division of Criminal Justice Financial & Computer Crimes Bureau, under the supervision of Bureau Chief Michael Monahan and Deputy Bureau Chief Mark Kurzawa, and the Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor. Additional assistance was provided by Supervising Criminal Forensic Auditor Debra Lewaine and Criminal Forensic Auditor Michael Birnie both of the Department of the Treasury's Office of Criminal Investigation, and the National Insurance Crime Bureau.

Follow the New Jersey Attorney General's Office online at [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) & [YouTube](#). The social media links provided are for reference only. The New Jersey Attorney General's Office does not endorse any non-governmental websites, companies or applications.

###

[News Index Page](#) | [top](#)

[Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Notice](#) | [Legal Statement](#) | [Accessibility Statement](#)



Departmental: [OAG Home](#) | [Contact OAG](#) | [About OAG](#) | [OAG News](#) | [OAG FAQs](#)

Statewide: [NJ Home](#) | [Services A to Z](#) | [Departments/Agencies](#) | [FAQs](#)

Copyright © State of New Jersey

This page is maintained by OAG Communications. Comments/Questions: [email](#) or call 609-292-4925